

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO CITY 11410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA RESIGNS

1M MEXICO CITY RADIO PROGRAMS WERE INTERRUPTED EARLY THIS EVENING TO ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY EMILIO RABASA. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL WHO CONFIRMED RESIGNATION TO EMBOFF WAS SIMILARLY NON-COMMITTAL CONCERNING REASONS, BUT SAID EXPLANATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

2. LIMITED REACTION AS YET AVAILABLE REFLECTS LACK OF INFORMATION AND SURPRISE. THOUGH RECURRENT RUMORS OF RABASA'S IMPENDING RESIGNATION HAVE BEEN HEARD OVER PAST YEAR AND A HALF, NOTHING EVER CAME OF THESE, AND AS RECENTLY AS RABASA'S RETURN FROM ISRAEL DAYS AGO HE SAID HE HAD NO PLANS TO RESIGN. FOREIGN DIPLOMATS REACTED TO RESIGNATION WITH GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE THAT RABASA HAD FAITHFULLY CARRIED OUT TASKS ENCHARGED HIM BY ERRATIC AND IMPULSIVE PRESIDENT. MEXICAN MILITARY OFFICER, ON OTHER HAND, WHEN APPRISED OF NEWS, REMARKED "QUE BUENO*" THIS VIEW MAY HAVE SOME GENERALITY IN COUNTRY WHERE "KING CAN DO NO WRONG" AND RABASA HAS CONSISTENTLY, WITHOUT COMPLAINT, PICKED UP PIECES FOLLOWING

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SOME NEW AND DRASTIC INITIATIVE BY ECHEVERRIA.

3. COMMENT: IT IS TOO SOON AND WE HAVE TOO LITTLE INFORMATION, AS YET, TO ANALYZE REASONS FOR RABASA'S RESIGNATION OR POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES THEREOF. IF RESIGNATION STEMS FROM EVENTS OF RECENT PAST, IT MAY BE THAT ECHEVERRIA'S DECISION TO SUPPORT "ZIONISM IS RACISM" RESOLUTION IN UNGA WAS STRAW THAT BROKE BACK OF RABASA, HIMSELF SON OF A JEWISH MOTHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, RABASA'S RESIGNATION MAY PORTEND SOME NEW INITIATIVE PLANNED BY ECHEVERRIA WHICH EVEN RABASA COULD NOT STOMACH. WHATEVER REASONS FOR RESIGNATION MAY BE MADE PUBLIC (E.G. HEALTH) EMBASSY WILL TRY TO GET AT TRUTH OF MATTER AND PROVIDE ANALYSIS. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO11410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0670
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975125/aaaaadrij.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA RESIGNS 1M MEXICO CITY RADIO PROGRAMS WERE INTERRUPTED EARLY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, MX, (RABASA MISHKIN, EMILIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006